

***Foster, Adoption, &
Kinship Services***

***Homeless
Continuum of Care***

***Transportation
Coalition***

Funding Partners

Youth in Transition

***Mental Health
Awareness***

Substance Abuse

Basic Needs

In partnership with:

***The Leadership
Council on Aging***

***Great Start
Livingston***



2011

Annual Report to the Community

***“Ensuring a System of Support
for Members of Our
Community”***

2011-2012 HSCB MEMBERS

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Message from the Chair

On behalf of the members of the Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body (HSCB), I present the 2011 Annual Report to the Community. 2011 was both a challenging and rewarding year for human service providers in our county as we provide for more residents in need with ever-decreasing resources. As this report indicates, there were many examples of strong collaboration that resulted in improved service delivery and enhanced leverage of funds. We all recognize that no one agency or organization can solve our local issues. It is by working together that we eliminate duplication and design creative new approaches to meet our county's most critical needs. Livingston County HSCB is very good at doing this! The HSCB would like to welcome any citizen or organization to join one or more of its many workgroups. Please contact Lindsay Beaudry, Community Planner at (517) 546-4126 or lbeaudry@cmhliv.org for additional information.

-Nancy A. Rosso

HSCB Mission

"Ensuring a system of support for members of our community"

HSCB Values

- We believe the needs of children, adults, and families drive our planning and services.
- We believe that collaboration means shared stewardship of community resources for the common good of Livingston County.
- We believe that collaboration requires broad community representation.
- We believe the HSCB is responsible for developing continuums of service from prevention to treatment.
- We believe the HSCB should ensure that community members needing services from multiple agencies receive services as efficiently and effectively as possible by creating systems of care.
- We believe that the HSCB should provide a caring community for Livingston County residents by supporting each other's work.

What is the Purpose of the Human Services Collaborative Body?

The Livingston HSCB started in 1989 and was officially recognized as the county Multi-Purpose Collaborative Body by the state and county Board of Commissioners in 1995. Now, referred to as a "Community Collaborative" by the state, the HSCB is comprised of 26 appointed members who work together to coordinate health and human services across systems. The HSCB also:

- Develops strategies and programs to meet current and future needs
- Fiscally manages state-funded collaborative initiatives
- Monitors the effectiveness and efficiency of collaborative projects

The HSCB does this work through established committees and workgroups which have specific goals and objectives to complete. The HSCB and most workgroups meet monthly and consist of representatives from public and nonprofit organizations, business, and interested residents of the county. To learn more about the work of the HSCB, contact Lindsay Beaudry at 517-546-4126 or lbeaudry@cmhliv.org.

Network of the HSCB & Affiliated Collaborative Groups	Role within the Community
Basic Needs Workgroup	Works to address the most fundamental needs of individuals.
Community Needs Assessment & Evaluation Committee	Assesses health and human service needs in Livingston County & assists in the evaluation of collaborative projects
Foster, Adoption, and Kinship Services (FAKS)	Works to increase the number of local foster homes & provides supports for foster parents & children
Funding Partners	Monitors collaborative projects in Livingston County
Youth in Transition (YIT)	Coordinates services for youth transitioning into adulthood.
Substance Abuse - Treatment	Provides education & training on substance abuse information and trends in Livingston County
Substance Abuse - Prevention (LCCA)	Focuses on substance abuse prevention in the county
Transportation Coalition	Collaborates to identify and address transportation concerns in Livingston County
Homeless Continuum of Care	Advocating and supporting homelessness prevention in Livingston County
211 Advisory Committee	Monitors Livingston County 2-1-1 Services
Mental Health Awareness Committee	Developed a suicide prevention plan for Livingston County
Leadership Council on Aging- Affiliate Collaborative	Implementing the Livingston County Senior Needs Assessment recommendations
Great Start Livingston- Affiliate Collaborative	Implementing Livingston County Great Start Plan

HSCB Priority Areas

Following the 2009 Livingston County specific Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, the HSCB embarked on a review of the data provided to identify major themes, trends and areas of concern to focus the work of the collaborative on pressing and urgent issues residents were facing. During the review it became apparent that there were seven major areas the HSCB full body and its workgroups should focus their time and energy on. These areas include:

- Substance use (prevention, awareness and treatment)
- Older Adults and Seniors
- Violence (reduction of violence & increased awareness & prevention).
- Basic needs (meeting the basic needs of life in the community)
- Early childhood (ages 0-5)
- Job loss
- Wellness (health promotion)

This report highlights some of the challenges the Livingston community faces in addressing these topic areas and some of the innovative and collaborative ways the health and human services are approaching solutions to these challenges.

2011 from Highlights



Early Childhood

Livingston County is fortunate to have numerous champions for children. In recent years, increasing attention has been given to the special needs and advantages of supporting the early years of a child's life. From birth to the age of five children develop the infrastructures of their lifelong brains and social emotional health. It is estimated that for every dollar put into early childhood, the return on investment is over eight dollars. In 2011 activities supporting early childhood in the community included:

- Bill Millet presentation to the Livingston business community highlighting the benefits of investing in early education to prepare a future client base and employees.
- Great Start® Star Power Day took place in Lansing in May 2011 to bring attention to young children and the needs they cannot voice themselves.
- Livingston Promise development aimed to provide early and continuing education to residents and their families.
- Livingston community leaders developed and launched the Parent Leadership Institute (Pii), a local training effort to get more parents involved in system wide improvement efforts that will impact future families.
- A New Mom Checklist was developed through the Great Start Collaborative with over 300 copies distributed to new mothers through OB/GYNS, WIC, CMH and Schools.

Violence Reduction

Indicators of increased violence are being recognized in the Livingston community. Be that indicator the increase in sexual assault interviews, the increased nights of stay utilized at the local domestic violence shelter, or the increased need for assailant anger management courses, the writing is on the wall.

- Nearly twenty trauma informed assessments were provided locally through a unique collaboration between mental health, the schools, contracted therapists, and the local domestic violence shelter to provide needed insight into the impact of trauma history on children in regards to their behaviors, needs and treatment. This local capacity, supported by the Funding Partners Workgroup saved the community thousands of dollars in out of county assessment costs.
- The local domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse prevention organization, LACASA has a large library of fact sheets they made available on their website for any community member to review. In addition, extensive outreach is provided in the schools and community by the highly trained LACASA staff to raise awareness and share information.
- The Foster, Adoptive, Kinship (FAKS) Service Workgroup continued to provide much needed support to families hosting foster children in Livingston County that have been removed from their homes for health or safety reasons. Appreciation dinners, family outings to go fishing and sleigh rides were coordinated by outstanding volunteers and FAKS members along with trainings to keep foster parent licenses up to date and the parents well informed on the unique issues that many foster children experience.

Wellness & Health Promotion

HSCB, sister collaboratives and other community organizations have been hard at work to make Livingston residents as healthy and well as possible. While Livingston scored favorably in many health indicators according to the behavioral risk survey, many areas such as fruit and vegetable consumption, obesity and diabetes left substantial room for improvement.

- Livingston County Suicide Prevention Workgroup transformed into the Mental Health Awareness Committee. The community is now able to request customized presentations from the diverse committee, made up of law enforcement, school personnel, youth program staff, mental health professionals and community members, to raise awareness about mental wellness and suicide prevention. Presentations have been well received in the community & will continue into 2012.
- Livingston Leadership Council on Aging facilitated the partnering of the local EMS department with 211 to dispatch paramedics during slow patches to seniors homes to administer free flu shots provided by public health, change light bulbs & provide fall prevention outreach.
- St. Joseph Mercy Hospital hosted their Health Fair in the summer of 2011. Mental Health First Aid, an evidence based curriculum designed to help identify and triage a mental health crisis was shared with community organizations around the county. More than twenty-five participants attended the two day training.
- Livingston Leadership Council on Aging coordinated the development of senior prescription for healthy aging pads to be shared in local hospital and doctor's offices to give older adults and caregivers information that can help reduce barriers to staying in their home.
- HSCB workgroups incorporated healthier food & beverage choices into their community events, such as fresh produce & water at the LESA backpack give-away, locally donated tooth brushes were also provided to attendees.

Job Loss

Still ranked in the top five earning communities in Michigan, Livingston has struggled to recover after experiencing nearly an unprecedented doubling of the local unemployment rate in less than five years. As the economy fights to recover, the high paying jobs that Livingston residents used to enjoy are the last to reappear. In the past ten years Livingston has registered the largest drop in median income in the nation, falling to \$72,129 in 2010, a nearly \$15,500 decrease from the 2000 real median of \$87,620 (WHMI, 2011). While salaries and unemployment rates have made the news, the stories of foreclosure, assets that cannot be liquidated or afforded, and isolation have crept into the lives of many residents. Getting back to work with new skills has become the ticket for success for Livingston residents.

- Each HSCB Workgroup pledged to make available information about volunteer opportunities for unemployed residents to get involved at their organization on Volunteer Livingston to promote activism and involvement during periods of unemployment.
- The HSCB is working with Michigan Works! to coordinate employment seminars for local human service organizations to help their clients navigate the system.
- Michigan Works! portals were developed in remote locations to help residents access employment supports without having to travel as far.
- The Transportation Coalition incorporated more employment related transportation routes into its annual plan which helped to connect Livingston Essential Transportation Services (LETS) with Job, Access, Reverse Commute dollars that continued to serve Livingston in 2011.

Providing for Basic Needs

To meet housing, childcare, transportation and dietary basic needs Livingston residents can expect to pay more than 35% above the national average. This figure means that a single parent with 2 preschool-aged children needs to make at least \$24.36 per hour in a full time position to afford the basics in Livingston (minimum wage is \$7.40). Health & human service organizations are working together more than ever to try & meet the needs of residents struggling to keep their families together & thriving.

- Locally funded Resource Navigators met with approximately twenty families a month to help them piece together a plan to meet their basic needs. The majority of the residents assisted were accessing services for the first time in their lives.
- 2011 Community Connect drew a record crowd of over 900 residents seeking a variety of basic need services in a one-stop-shop & welcoming atmosphere. Over 500 volunteers made the event possible for the fourth year in a row.
- The Livingston County Hunger Council reduced the hunger gap by an additional 3,800,000 meals by increasing coordination, maximizing federal food program enrollment, & creative local solutions like Summer Lunch Bunch that provides low-income communities summer lunch for kids.
- Residents were able to take advantage of earned income tax preparation that brought thousands of dollars back into the community.
- Community gardens made thousands of pounds of fresh, locally grown produce available to low-income residents
- The Livingston community housing service providers collaborated to establish new community protocols on how to spend emergency shelter dollars provided locally to patch the emergency shelter gap made in part by drastically decreased federal funding and increased local demand.
- Local pantries worked together with the local food bank Gleaners to maximize the benefit of locally generated dollars to stave off food shortages in the local food pantry network created by cuts to commodity food programs and federal emergency food funds.
- Thousands of Livingston County Resource Guides were printed and distributed at community events and through partner organizations with details about how to access basic need assistance in a variety of areas like healthcare, food, etc.

For every \$1 donated to the HSCB Basic Needs Committee, OVER \$5 in community value is leveraged!!!

Substance Use

Livingston County has been working hard to increase awareness and treatment opportunities for substance abusers who are ready for a change. Livingston continues to have binge drinking rates above state and national averages, elevated prescription drug misuse (especially opiate prescriptions), and on average youth initiate marijuana use at age 14.

- The Livingston County Community Alliance successfully rolled out oBig Red Barrelö collection stations around the county to gather excess & leftover prescription medications to prevent misuse & theft of these substances. Thousands of pounds have already been collected and destroyed.
- Substance abuse prevention, awareness and treatment partners came together to host professional and community trainings highlighting the dangers of emerging synthetic drug trends (K2, Spice, LoL, bath salts, etc), over 150 professionals & 80 community members attended.
- Substance abuse treatment and prevention information was shared at local events like Community Connect, the LESA backpack give-a-way, and school open houses.
- The local Run Against Drugs (RAD Run) drew 200 runners and numerous local sponsors. This year's proceeds went to fund mini-grant applications given to grass roots community groups and efforts dedicated to raising substance abuse awareness and/or prevention activities.
- Livingston County Homeless Continuum of Care members agreed to make substance abuse awareness and treatment materials available in their organizations for their clients. The group also agreed to highlight the increased likelihood of prescription medication abuse when multi-generational or multi-family living situations are entered into.
- The Youth in Transition workgroup included substance abuse access points in their annual Community Connect on Wheels tour and agreed to inquire within the youth community about the need for drug and alcohol support groups for young people locally.
- The Transportation Coalition incorporated additional routes and after hours transportation to their list of goals to help reduce the number of drivers on the roads under the influence of substances.
- Funding Partners Workgroup prioritized youth substance abuse treatment as a top item for discussion for multi-system children.

The average wait time for an individual to access substance abuse treatment services in Livingston County is now LESS than 24 hours!!

